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BEN STILLER'S 'SECRET LIFE'

COMEDY WAS NEVER HIS ULTIMATE GOAL. PAGE 22



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Thursday, January 2, 2014 www.metro.us | t: MetroNew York | f: MetroNewYork

THE MARCH BEGINS TODAY



New era. Former President Bill Clinton swears in Bill de Blasio as the next mayor of New York City. **United front.** De Blasio vows at his inauguration to bring New Yorkers together and “march to keep the promise of New York alive for the next generation.” PAGES 02-04

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NEWS

Quoted

"We do not ask more of the wealthy to punish success. We do it to create more success stories."

Mayor Bill de Blasio



Bill de Blasio, left, Letitia "Tish" James, top right, and Scott Stringer, bottom right, were sworn in at the ceremony Wednesday. / GETTY IMAGES; BESS ADLER, METRO

The newly elected vow to bring progressive vision to New York City

New era. Mayor Bill de Blasio, Public Advocate Tish James and Comptroller Scott Stringer promise a progressive city.

Despite the two mayors sharing a genial handshake in the subway prior to the event, the first hour of speakers at Mayor Bill de Blasio's inauguration devoted much of their speeches to ripping into Michael Bloomberg's record — without ever saying the name of the 71-year-old former mayor sitting in the front row.

New Public Advocate Tish James spoke derisively of standardized testing, hospital closures, stop-and-frisk, and "decrepit homeless shelters and housing developments [that] stand

in the neglected shadow of gleaming multimillion-dollar condos."

Harry Belafonte, escorted to the podium by de Blasio's teenage son, Dante, slammed Bloomberg's New York as "Dickensian."

More than an hour into the ceremony, former President Bill Clinton spoke. He talked fondly of de Blasio as a longtime friend and former staffer, saying he "got a big kick of watching New Yorkers fall in love with" the de Blasio family.

He was also the first

to not only speak Bloomberg's name aloud, but to thank the man who he said "has committed so much of his life to this city."

"He leaves the city stronger and healthier than he found it; more people are coming here than leaving," Clinton said.

Bloomberg did get cheers, but as de Blasio approached the podium to be sworn in, people rose to their feet and at least one attendee far from the stage called out, "I love you!"

De Blasio gave praise

gingerly to the former mayor, limiting his accolades to Bloomberg's "passion" for environmental issues and public health.

De Blasio launched into his own remarks by acknowledging some doubt about his intentions.

"I know there are those who think that what I said during the campaign was just rhetoric, just 'political talk' in the interest of getting elected," he said.

"So let me be clear," he continued. "When I said we would take dead aim at the Tale of Two Cities, I meant it."

He spoke of specific plans for the first time since the election, promising an expansion of the Paid Sick Leave law that would cover 300,000 additional New Yorkers by January 2015.

"I will honor the faith and trust you have placed in me," he said. "And we will give life to the hope of so many in our city."

Prison rate

Wrong on two counts

"New York, alarmingly, plays a tragic role in the fact that our nation has the largest prison population in the world," Harry Belafonte said, in a jab at Bloomberg. "Much of that problem stems from issues of race perpetuated by the depth of human indifference to poverty."

But the city's incarceration rate is 30 percent lower than that of the nation, and Mayor Bloomberg sank millions of his personal wealth into the Young Men's Initiative to help keep young men of color out of jail.



DANIELLE TCHOLAKIAN

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Top 3

Trending online at Metro.us

1 'James Avery — aka Uncle Phil on 'Fresh Prince' — dead at 65'

2 'Cuomo to accused assemblymen: deny harassment allegations or resign'

3 'From atop his desk, Mayor Bloomberg bids his staff goodbye'

Tax Hike

Mayor Bill de Blasio reiterated his plan for a five-year tax hike on the wealthy to fund universal pre-K and after-school programs, borrowing a point from one of his deputy mayors, Alicia Glen.

- Residents with annual

incomes between \$500,000 and \$1 million would see an increase of, on average, \$973 a year.

- "That's less than three bucks a day," he said pointedly. "About the cost of a small soy latte at your local Starbucks."

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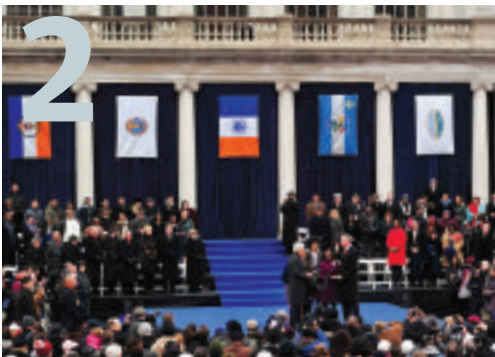


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One city. New Yorkers braved the cold to welcome new mayor



1 Mayor Bill de Blasio greets visitors in City Hall after the inauguration. GETTY IMAGES

Michael Bloomberg.
BESS ADLER, METRO

2 A large crowd gathers at City Hall on New Year's Day to watch the new mayor be sworn in. GETTY IMAGES

4 Gov. Andrew Cuomo and girlfriend Sandra Lee watch the festivities. GETTY IMAGES

3 The mayor's children, Chiara and Dante de Blasio, shake hands with Sen. Charles Schumer and former Mayor

5 Actress Cynthia Nixon speaks at the event. GETTY

6 Bill and Hillary Clinton celebrate their friend being sworn into office. GETTY IMAGES

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1 **96 St – Dyckman St**
Weeknights, Jan 13 – 17, Mon – Fri, 10PM – 5AM

1 **96 St – 242 St**
Weekend, Jan 17– 20, Fri – Mon, 11:30PM – 5AM

E F M R **(E) World Trade Center – Roosevelt Av**
(F) 21St/Queensbridge – Roosevelt Av
Weeknights, Jan 20 – 24, Mon – Fri, 10PM – 5AM

2 3 4 **Atlantic Av/Barclays Ctr – Franklin Av**
Weeknights, Jan 27 – 31, Mon – Fri, 10PM – 5AM

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— Fox News 2013

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Bill Bratton is vowing to reach out to more New York City communities than Ray Kelly. / GETTY IMAGES

Changing of the NYPD guard: Kelly to Bratton

Back in the saddle.

New police chief is repeating what happened when he was appointed under Giuliani.

New Yorkers who have been around long enough may feel like they're experiencing déjà vu over the next couple of days.

The city's "new" police commissioner is not so new: Bill Bratton served as the NYPD's top cop from 1994 to 1996.

In addition, the city has seen this same transition before, when Bill Bratton took over the NYPD from Ray Kelly in 1994 after Kelly served in that post under Mayor David Dinkins.

Len Levitt, on his blog NYPDConfidential, noted how the last time the city saw this change, Kelly was leaving with a reputation for being a proponent — even a pioneer — of community policing in minority enclaves.

Kelly had made recruitment in minority communities a cornerstone of his tenure under Dinkins, working to diversify a force that was 11 percent

History redux

Former Police Commissioner Ray Kelly also served under Mayor David Dinkins from 1992 to 1994.

- Bill Bratton was the next police commissioner sworn in when Mayor Rudy Giuliani was

elected in 1994.

- Bratton left the post in 1996.
- He became the police chief of Los Angeles in 2002 and served there until 2009.

Big diversity

"The department is more diverse than ever."

Louis Turco
president of the Lieutenants
Benevolent Association

black in a city with more than double that proportion of black residents.

Ed Mullins, president of the Sergeants Benevolent Association, said there were "incidents when [Kelly] would just come right out and support the community over the cops."

This election is seeing a backwards version of that transition: Kelly left as the hardline commissioner obsessed — successfully so — with bringing down crime rates to record lows, and Bratton is coming in with

promises of more community engagement, more outreach, and addressing issues like traffic deaths and at-risk youth.

This time Kelly is also leaving the city with an all-time low of 333 murders, as of Dec. 29.

Levitt said that Bratton will bring greater transparency and more "collegial" relationships with other agencies in the city, and the press.

As for Bratton, Kelly was able to muster some kind words just a few days before stepping down.

"Bill Bratton's very experienced," Kelly said after a recent NYPD graduation ceremony. "I'm sure he'll do a good job."



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Judge upholds NY state assault weapons ban

Locked and loaded. Most of the state's new gun-control law will stand.

A federal judge upheld most of New York state's tough gun-control law on Tuesday, but struck down a provision that limits the number of bullets in a weapon to seven.

The New York Safe Act, approved last January, expanded the state's assault weapons ban to include semi-automatic weapons with characteristics of assault weapons, and put limits on ammunition.

The law, which was approved one month after a mass shooting at a Connecticut elementary school that killed 20 children and six adults, was one of the toughest gun-control measures in the country.

U.S. District Judge William Skretny, a federal judge in Buffalo, rejected the claim brought by the New York State Rifle and Pistol Association in a lawsuit filed in April that the law violated the Second Amendment right to bear arms. But Skretny also found that the seven-round limit was arbitrary.

A spokesman for New



The New York assault weapons ban included semi-automatic weapons with characteristics of assault weapons. / CHARLES MOSTOLLER, METRO



A gun owner takes aim at a range in New York state. / AARON ADLER, METRO

See more at
www.metro.us

Quoted

"Let's at least be able to say to people, yes, we went through terrible situations, but we saw, we learned, we responded, and we acted."

Cuomo said at the time of the shooting

York Gov. Andrew Cuomo, a Democrat, did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

At the bill-signing ceremony in January, Cuomo said it was nonsensical to permit the use of high-capacity magazines that could give killers the ability to fire multiple rounds in quick succession.

But the law infuriated gun rights advocates. The National Rifle Association, the leading gun rights organization, called the law "draconian." **REUTERS**

Crash

One dead, three injured in SUV crash on Long Island Expressway

An SUV carrying four people overturned on the Long Island Expressway in Queens early New Year's morning, killing one passenger and leaving the driver in critical condition.

The crash occurred shortly after 2 a.m. on the eastbound side of the highway near Parsons Boulevard, police said.

The 2001 Nissan Xterra struck the median, traveled across three traffic lanes and then struck a curb before overturning and landing with its roof against a tree, police said.

The front seat passenger, a 26-year-old man, was pronounced dead at the scene. The driver, a 31-year-old man, was taken to Booth Memorial Hospital in critical condition with trauma to the head and body.

Two rear-seat passengers were also taken to the hospital. They are in stable condition with minor injuries, police said.

The identity of the deceased passenger has not been released.

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Doctors, hospitals expect some confusion with start of Obamacare benefits

Insured. People in most states had to enroll by last week to get coverage that takes effect Jan. 1.

Hospitals and medical practices across the United States braced for confusion and administrative hassles as new insurance plans under President Barack Obama's health care law took effect Wednesday.

More than 2 million people enrolled in private plans offered under the Affordable Care Act, popularly known as Obamacare, during the initial sign-up period for health benefits. Enrollment began in October and lasts through March.

The expanded coverage under the new plans is one of the main parts of the 2010 law, the most sweeping social legislation in 50 years. Over time, the law, which requires most Americans to buy insurance and offers subsidies to help low-income people get covered and sets minimum standards for coverage, aims to dramatically reduce the number of Americans who lack health insurance, which the federal government has estimated at more than 45 million.

After a difficult October

See more at
www.metro.us



Hospital executives said they were ready for potential hiccups with the newly insured. / GETTY IMAGES

Quoted

"We are ready ourselves to assist consumers as well with our full complement of call center representatives available."

Julie Bataille, spokeswoman for The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Service

launch plagued by problems with HealthCare.gov — the website used to enroll people in coverage — the focus for the government and health care providers turned on Wednesday to what would

happen when patients with the new coverage began to seek care.

The new law still faces political and legal hurdles. Organizations affiliated with the Roman Catholic Church obtained

last-minute injunctions on Tuesday that granted them temporary exemptions from a part of the health care law that requires employers to provide insurance policies covering contraception.

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor granted one temporary injunction to Baltimore-based Little Sisters of the Poor and Illinois-based Christian Brothers Services, plus related entities.

REUTERS

Colorado cannabis

World's first state-licensed marijuana retailers open

The world's first state-licensed retailers legally permitted to sell marijuana for recreational use to the general public opened for business in Colorado on Wednesday with long lines of customers, marking a new chapter in America's drug culture.

Roughly three dozen former medical



Tyler Williams of Blanchester, Ohio, selects marijuana strains to purchase at the 3-D Denver Discrete Dispensary. / GETTY IMAGES

marijuana dispensaries newly cleared by state regulators to sell pot to consumers who are interested in nothing more than its mind- and mood-altering properties began welcoming customers as early as 8 a.m. MST.

The highly anticipated New Year's Day opening launched an unprecedented commercial cannabis market that Colorado officials expect will ultimately gross \$578 million in annual revenues, including \$67 million in taxes for the state. REUTERS

Former first lady. Barbara Bush remains in Houston hospital

Former first lady Barbara Bush remained hospitalized in Houston on Wednesday, suffering from a respiratory ailment, a spokesman for her husband's office said.

Bush, 88, both the wife and mother of presidents, was admitted Monday to Methodist Hospital in Houston's Texas Medical Center, according to the office of

former President George H.W. Bush.

She was being treated for a "respiratory-related issue," her husband's office said.

There was no new information on her condition as of Wednesday morning, according to Jim McGrath, a spokesman for her husband's office.

REUTERS

Explosion

Several injured in Minneapolis apartment blaze

Thirteen people were injured, six critically, in an explosion and fire at a Minneapolis apartment building early Wednesday in frigid temperatures, officials said.

The blast and blaze, which engulfed several apartments and a grocery store, started about 8 a.m., they said.

Huge flames shot from windows and clouds of smoke enveloped the building as firefighters battled the New Year's Day blaze in sub-zero temperatures. **REUTERS**

Gay couple exchanges vows on float during Rose Parade

Marriage equality.

The event comes at a time of increasing momentum for same-sex rights.

A gay Los Angeles couple exchanged wedding vows atop a flower-covered float trundling through Pasadena on Wednesday as part of the nationally televised Tournament of Roses Parade, capping a momentous year for same-sex marriage in the United States.

The nuptials of Danny Leclair, 45, and Aubrey Loots, 42, who have been together for 12 years and own a local chain of hair salons, marked the first same-sex marriage on a Rose Parade float in the 125-year history of the annual event, organizers said.

Previously, two hetero-



Danny Leclair and Aubrey Loots, the first gay couple to get married on a Rose Parade float, kiss after saying "I do" during the 2014 Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena, Calif. / GETTY IMAGES

Spectators

700K

The parade was witnessed by an estimated 700,000 spectators who lined the 5 1/2 mile procession route.

sexual couples have tied the knot during past Rose Parades — in 1989 and last year.

Leclair and Loots made it official aboard a float shaped like a wedding cake coated in coconut chips,

accented with red kidney beans and festooned with 12,000 roses and other floral decorations, said Ged Kenslea, a spokesman for the AIDS Healthcare Foundation.

REUTERS

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In brief

OSHA to lower silica workplace exposure limits

The federal government is planning stricter controls on exposure to silica, a carcinogen found in workplaces ranging from dentist offices to granite quarries, according to a new report.

Silica is the powdered form of quartz, in

particles so small they can be inhaled deep into the lungs. Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) officials estimate that 2.2 million people in the U.S. are exposed to silica at work, including 1.85 million construction workers.

Silica has long been known to cause silicosis, and evidence now confirms that silica exposure can

cause lung cancer as well.

US justice grants exemption in contraception challenge

Roman Catholic Church-affiliated organizations on Tuesday obtained last-minute court injunctions that give them temporary

exemptions from a part of the Obamacare healthcare law that requires employers to provide insurance policies covering contraception.

U.S. Supreme Court Justice Sonia Sotomayor granted one temporary injunction to Baltimore-based Little Sisters of the Poor and Illinois-based Christian Brothers Services, plus related entities. **REUTERS**



Concerns about child care and time can keep some women from getting the post-surgery care they need. / ISTOCK

Child-care issues may affect cancer treatment

Study. Women with young children more likely to skip treatments.

Child care issues may keep breast cancer patients from getting the treatments they need, a new study suggests.

Mothers with young children were more likely to skip recommended radiation treatments after breast cancer surgery because of worries about the time involved, researchers found.

In particular, women who had a breast tumor removed were less likely to undergo radiation therapy afterward if they had kids age 7 or younger at home.

About 81 percent of women surveyed in the study who had younger kids received radiation therapy. The rates of radiation therapy for women with older kids or none at all ranged between 84 and 87 percent.

Put another way, one in five women with young kids in the study skipped potentially life-saving post-surgery treatment, said Ya-Chen Tina Shih, an economist and associate professor of medicine at the University of Chicago in Illinois who co-led the study.

"We were surprised because women in the younger age range have the longest life expectancy, so we expected to see a higher

compliance rate among them," she told Reuters Health.

"Women may think, 'I really need to take care of the kids at home,' and they may act on what they believe is most important at that time," Shih said.

"But they may not be aware of how important radiation therapy is."

Women who have lumpectomy surgery to remove a breast tumor — the researchers did not include patients who had mastectomies — are usually advised to follow up with radiation therapy, which requires a serious time commitment. The radiation treatments take up to an hour, five days a week, for up to seven weeks, the researchers report.

Shih pointed out that one weakness in her team's report, published in the Journal of the National Cancer Institute, was that they did not talk to the patients themselves to record their reasons for not getting radiation therapy.

The study shows an association between the age of a woman's children and her likelihood of opting out of radiation, but does not prove cause and effect. **REUTERS**

By the numbers

81%

Percentage of women surveyed who had younger children and received radiation therapy.

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The invisible man. Kerry's deputy Burns in secret Iran talks

The night before a round of high-stakes nuclear talks with Iran, President Barack Obama told his chief of staff that he had "absolute confidence we have the right team on the field."

Obama was not referring to his public negotiating team. Rather, White House Chief of Staff Denis McDonough recalled, Obama was talking about a secret group led by Bill Burns, Kerry's discreet, disciplined and self-effacing deputy.

At times using U.S. military aircraft, hotel side entrances and service elevators to keep his role under wraps, Burns undertook arguably the most sensitive diplomatic mission of Obama's presidency: secret talks with Iran to persuade it to curb its nuclear program.

In picking Burns, seen by his peers as a leading diplomat of his generation,

Good reputation

Even those who squared off across the table spoke well of Burns.

- He "knows Iran very well and also understands Iran's culture, expectations and position in the region," said a senior Iranian official, speaking on condition of anonymity. "Sometimes during the talks Iranian negotiators get angry and pressure him, but he remains calm and patient."

Obama gave the envoy a chance to ease more than 30 years of estrangement.

"He is steady, reliable, intelligent, disciplined and — in his understated way — persuasive," said former U.S. Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

REUTERS



Hong Kong battles for democracy

Thousands protested in Hong Kong on Wednesday, pressing China to allow full democracy in the city as the battle intensifies over Beijing's attempts to control the outcome of a planned direct election for the city's leader in 2017. Beijing had promised direct elections in the former British colony as the goal for 2017, but the devil is in the details of the rules governing who can run. Pressure has been building between democratic forces in the financial hub, which returned to Chinese rule in 1997, and China's stability-obsessed Communist Party leaders who fear a rival democrat being voted into office. Protesters at the annual New Year's Day democracy rally shouted slogans demanding full democracy in 2017, with a key condition being the open nominations of candidates so that anyone, including China critics, can run for office. But Chinese officials and leftist newspapers have rejected that, citing the city's mini-constitution that states all nominees must be endorsed by a 1,200-strong election committee, which is stacked with Beijing loyalists. REUTERS / GETTY IMAGES

Russian bombings

Putin meets Volgograd victims

Russian President Vladimir Putin met wounded victims of the deadly suicide bombings in the southern Russian city of Volgograd on Wednesday, heaping condemnation on the attacks that raised security fears ahead of the Winter Olympics.

Putin flew in before dawn, after vowing in a New Year's Eve address to "annihilate" terrorists in uncompromising remarks aimed at Islamist insurgents based in the North Caucasus who have plagued his 14-year rule.

"No matter what motivated the criminals, there can be no justification for crimes against civilians, particularly against women and children," Putin said in televised comments. REUTERS

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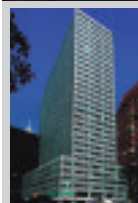
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**Get tools
for your
tool belt at
Fred's Shed**

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the boating
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Carraro
of 'Wicked
Tuna'**

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**Top three
expert tips
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**Activities
for kids at
this year's
event**

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Get on board. Chart your way through all-new activities awaiting visitors to the 2014 New York Boat Show.

There are plenty of ways to start 2014 on the right keel at the New York Boat Show. Whether you attend to buy, browse, learn or support the boater in your life, there is a way to stay busy and spend a memorable day.

It goes without saying that the boat show is a great opportunity to buy a

new boat. "You'll have dealers from several different states, all in one spot," said Jon Pritko of the National Marine Manufacturers Association. "It would take you forever to go out to all of them yourself."

Of course, manufacturers use boat shows as an opportunity to debut new models and technologies, like jet-propulsion engines, fish finders and navigation tools.

Several seminars and workshops offer great learning opportunities at the show, ranging from consumer education for possible boat owners to hands-on demos on diesel

Giveaways

This year's big ticket items:

- \$10,000 Yamaha personal watercraft
- Cruise for two to the British Virgin Islands

engine repair. Boat owners can acquire skills that will help them save thousands on maintenance and upkeep.

Live entertainment is also on the docket. Audiences can watch Swampmaster Jeff Quatrocci dodge a snapping jaw as

he handles a wild alligator. They can also hear Captain Dave Carraro of National Geographic Channel's "Wicked Tuna" tell unbelievable stories of life on the sea.

Those feeling lucky even have a shot at two major giveaways. This year's big ticket items are a \$10,000 Yamaha personal watercraft and a cruise for two to the British Virgin Islands.

And of course, as Pritko knows, not everyone who comes to a boat show is a boater themselves. There are non-boating business booths to enjoy as well, like spas and nautical jewelry makers.

There is also good news for the boaters of the future. "There are more kids' activities than ever this year," Pritko said. Kids under 15 get into the show for free and can get their faces painted, build their own model boats, experience the pirate life with Blackbear the Pirate and even try their hands at paddleboating.

Parents can rest assured, Pritko said. All activities — even the paddleboat pond — are inside. "If it weren't, we'd just have an ice rink!"



NATALIE SHURE
letters@metro.us

If you go

Progressive Insurance New York Boat Show

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Stay busy, New York City

Tens of thousands of boating and fishing enthusiasts start their season at the Progressive Insurance New York Boat Show — now in its 108th year. / GETTY



The Fred's Shed seminars at the Progressive Insurance New York Boat Show have courses for beginners as well as more seasoned boat owners. / PROGRESSIVE INSURANCE NEW YORK BOAT SHOW

Check out Fred's Shed

Tools for your toolbelt. DIY types will love all they can learn about boat maintenance at Fred's Shed.

As a boat gets older, the cost of boat maintenance can really add up. Paying professionals to maintain your boat can cost about 10 percent of a boat's value every year.

Fortunately, with the right boat maintenance skills anyone can do their own maintenance work and bring this annual cost down to as low as 1 percent of the value. At Fred's Shed, New York Boat Show attendees can take free, hands-on DIY workshops on a wide range of topics and learn

what it takes to keep their boat in good shape. Keith Ammans of the National Marine Manufacturing Association has the low-down on what Fred's Shed has to offer.

What sorts of topics can visitors learn about at Fred's Shed?

Q&A

What seminar is best for a first-timer who knows nothing about maintenance?

We have two starter courses, and they are our most popular: Maintaining the

We've got sessions on troubleshooting, how to fix your motor, how to deal with mold and mildew, handling fiberglass damage, how to set a maintenance schedule, and one-on-one sessions for experienced maintainers who have specific questions. We

Gas Outboard and Maintaining the Stern Drive. We go through a list of maintenance basics, and how often each thing should be done. It's also a great way for people who don't plan on doing their own maintenance, so they can make sure their service center is doing everything it should at a reasonable cost.

also give tips on the best products to use, like what wax is best.

How difficult is it to learn these things?

Maintenance can be intimidating for first-time boat owners, but this stuff is a lot easier than people think. At Fred's Shed, we walk everyone through the basics in layman's terms. They can also ask questions.

What surprises people most about boat maintenance?

The majority of issues people see in the shop are related to fuel systems. A lot of them could have been avoided with basic knowledge of fuel system maintenance.



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Sea legs. Even land-based New Yorkers have good reason to love the boating industry.

Last year in New York state, the boating industry was a \$5.8 billion industry. Thomas Dammrich, president of the National Marine Manufacturers Association, explains the economic impact of boating on the Empire State.

Many people will be surprised to hear that boating is such a big industry for New York. What is included in the \$5.8 billion total?

That figure is the combined effect of direct and induced costs. Direct boat sales account for a relatively small portion — about \$550 million. The rest comes from a lot of different things — other costs of owning and maintaining a boat, equipment, accessories and even things like trips to the grocery store to buy supplies before a boat trip. When it's all added together, boating contributes nearly \$6 billion to New York's economy each year.

How many businesses in New York deal with boating directly?

New York is the fifth biggest boating state in the country, with just under 1,900 boating-related

businesses licensed in New York State, including boat dealers, boat builders and boat storage businesses. These businesses directly employ about 15,000 people. And since most New York area boaters boat locally, they support local economies where they dock.

Are these trends expected to continue?

Last year, in 2012, we saw a 20 percent increase in boating product sales and expect to see a similar increase for 2013. There's a boat for every budget, and some can be financed for as little as \$250 a month. Boat loan rates are extremely attractive right now, so it is a good time to buy.

Q&A

How does the New York Boat Show fit into the industry at large?

It is considered a national industry indicator. Some local boat dealers make a full 50 percent of their annual income through boat show sales. Many manufacturers debut new models or accessories — we expect to see great new GPS technology, for example. And of course, about 20 percent of attendees are looking to buy a boat — and the



The Progressive Insurance New York Boat Show will welcome hundreds of businesses from New York and the tri-state area.

PROGRESSIVE INSURANCE NEW YORK BOAT SHOW

best way to do that is at a multi-dealership boat show.



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Boating makes a splash in New York's economy



Nearly \$6 billion of New York state's economy comes from boating. /ISTOCK



Swampmaster Jeff Quattrocchi will be at the Progressive Insurance New York Boat Show giving visitors a chance to hold a live baby alligator. / JEFF QUATTROCCHI

Swamp thing. Elite gator-handler Jeff Quattrocchi brings his traveling show — featuring an 200-pound, 8-foot wild alligator.

“This show is as real as it gets. I want ‘em mean, and I want ‘em aggressive,” explained the “Swampmaster” Jeff Quattrocchi. The 20-year expert alligator handler doesn’t perform his traveling show with trained animals or pets. He works with one gator only five times before it retires from showbiz and goes back to the pond. Anyone who catches his demonstration at the New York Boat Show can see him in action with a 200-pound, 8-foot wild alligator.

It’s a dangerous job — since he got his start working with gators in Florida two decades ago, Quattrocchi has been bitten 14 times. In 2010, a bad bite left him with 37 staples

and 26 stitches in his arm. “There are lots of ways to make a mistake handling an alligator,” Quattrocchi said. “But I’m not wrestling them — it’s not a winner and loser type of deal. It’s just a friendly show, with lots of excitement.”

There is an educational side to the show as well. Quattrocchi kicks off his presentation with a bit of Alligator 101. He goes over common reasons they might attack, like defending their nests or territories. He also clears up a few common misconceptions — like the fact that they are much slower runners than people think.

To handle his wild gators, Quattrocchi starts by grabbing the animal’s tail and bringing it to the middle of the pool. Then Quattrocchi pins it down by hopping onto its back. Fortunately, it isn’t tough to stay fit on the road because gator handling is great exercise. “There’s lots of athleticism, balance and skill involved. He’s got his mouth open the whole time. You take a step, he takes a step.”

Witness the Swampmaster wrangle a wild alligator

When the reptile is finally under Quattrocchi’s control, he opens its mouth to show the audience 80 sharp teeth.

While they might not be ready to take on a wild gator right away, audience members can still become budding handlers too. At

the end of every Swampmaster show, people get a chance to pet baby gators and snap photos with Jeff. “We have a lot of fun with it,” he said.



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Treat yourself to a fisherman's tale with Captain Dave Carraro

Reality show.

The star of National Geographic Channel's "Wicked Tuna" talks about his life among the bluefin.

Weighing up to 1,200 pounds and tearing through the ocean at 40 miles an hour, the bluefin tuna is no easy catch. Earlier this year, Captain Dave Carraro and his crew spent a full 10 hours fighting a single fish in rough waters. "All three of us were on that rod from the dark hours in the morning until after it was dark at night," Carraro said. "It's basically like you're hooking up to a car on the highway — you're along for the ride."

But did they finally catch the mighty bluefin? Most people won't get the whole story until Carraro's reality show "Wicked Tuna" returns to National Geographic Channel for its third season in February. But New York Boat Show attendees have the chance to meet Dave and hear high-seas adventure stories straight from the (sea)horse's mouth.

The bluefin tuna is highly prized — a single fish can rack up anywhere between \$2,000 and \$20,000. It is considered a delicacy and used to make sushi. Up to 90 percent of all bluefin catches are sold to Japan, Carraro explained. "Sushi is to Japan what wine is to California."

And just like grapes in a vineyard, each individual bluefin is examined individually and priced based on its quality.

Carraro and his crew typically begin fishing every June, when the bluefin are in the waters of New England. They wrap in December, when the fish leave for warmer waters in the Mediterranean and off the African coast. Carraro and his crew spend up to six days at a time on the water: "During fishing season, my crew is basically my family."

A full 30 years after his first catch, Carraro still spends the first half of each year itching for fishing season. What's so exciting about catching a bluefin tuna? "The hunt, the hook-up, the fight and the adrenaline rush," Carraro said. "You ask any fisherman, they'll tell you the same thing."

The excitement has its downsides — bluefin fishermen spend a lot of time away from home, and the job can be exhausting and strenuous. The money is good, but the competition is fierce. "I would never recommend this as a profession," Carraro joked. "It takes a lot out of you. Go to college instead." Does Carraro wish he could follow his own advice? "No way," he said. "I would do this again, and again, and again, and again."

Maybe he just wants to keep more bluefin for himself.



NATALIE SHURE
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If you go

Captain Dave

Friday, 1—3 p.m. and 5—7 p.m.
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NATIONAL GEOGRAPHIC CHANNEL

Quoted

"I would never recommend this as a profession. It takes a lot out of you. Go to college instead."

Carraro, joking about being a fisherman



Experts from Discover Boating will be on hand at the Progressive Insurance New York Boat Show to help serious buyers find the perfect vessel for their needs. / PROGRESSIVE INSURANCE NEW YORK BOAT SHOW

Tips for boat budgeting and buying

On the market.

Whether you are new to boating or a seasoned sea vet, it's an exciting time to bring a new boat into your life.

Here are some things to think about when getting ready to buy your boat:

Make choices based on your interests

There are about as many boating-related activities as there are boaters, so it's important to think about what you'll be using it for. There are boats that are best suited for watersports or racing, while others might be best for activities like fishing, day trips or cruises. You can use the DiscoverBoating.com boat selector tool to narrow

your search by favorite activity and number of people you'll have on board.

Decide whether buying new or pre-owned best suits your needs

There are pros and cons to buying new and pre-owned models. New boats have lower financing rates and better warranties, offer trouble-free operation and maintenance, and can be customized specifically for you by color, layout and other personal preferences. However, they also cost more and depreciate in value over the first year. You can find great bargains on pre-owned boats, if you do your research. New boats might be best for first-timers. For those shopping pre-owned, a marine surveyor can help you make the right choice. Go online to find one near you at www.marinesurveyor.org.

marinesurveyor.org.

Know the costs to budget for

You'll need to pay for the boat and a place to store it, but there are other costs to keep in mind when budgeting for your new boat. Fuel costs vary depending on the type of boat and how often you use it. The average boat spends 90 hours a year on the water, and the average runabout uses between \$300 and \$800 in fuel annually. Maintenance costs also depend on the type and age of the boat, but many of these costs can be eliminated with a little elbow grease and by learning the basics of caring for your boat yourself. You'll also need insurance for your boat — most plans run about half of what it would cost to insure a comparably priced car.



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More activities

The options are endless

Kids can also mingle with SpongeBob SquarePants and the Miss Geico racing boat, the world's fastest catamaran with speeds exceeding 180 mph.

The Progressive Insurance New York Boat Show transforms the Javits Center into a kid-friendly cove filled with sights, sounds and stimulating activities for the whole family. / NATIONAL MARINE MANUFACTURERS ASSOCIATION

Just for Kids

For those whose sea legs are still a bit too short, the New York Boat Show has plenty to do. Kids of all ages can stay busy all day long with more child-friendly activities than any other year. We round up the kid-approved stuff to do at the show.

Meet Captain Dave Carraro!

Kids are a large part of the fan base of "Wicked Tuna," a National Geographic Channel reality show about bluefin tuna fishing off the coast of New England. Join him for storytime about his high seas adventures!

1

Visit the Swampmaster!

Expert gator-handler Jeff Quattrocchi will perform his traveling alligator show. After Jeff teaches the audience about gators and handles one himself, spectators can get up close and personal with baby gators.

2

Help their parents save some cash

Children under 15 get into the New York Boat Show for free, offering an affordable entertainment option while the kids are out of school.

3

Ride a paddleboat!

An indoor pool with paddleboats is the perfect way for little skippers to try their hand at navigating.

4

Hear about Blackbear the Pirate

Steve Buckley will read from his award-winning series, "Blackbear the Pirate." Kids can also play a variety of sea-themed games, like hunting for treasure and collecting pirate booty.

5

Make your own boat!

Kids can build their own keepsake model boat (supplies are provided) and take it home.

6

2

CULTURE

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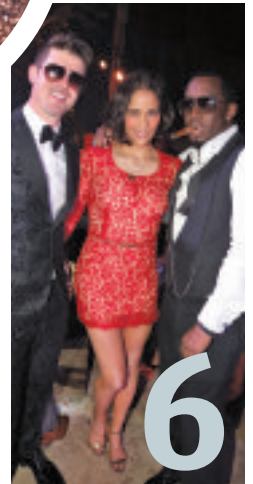
Dorothy Robinson takes on the world of gossip.

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Starstruck. How celebrities spent their New Year's Eve



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1 Miley Cyrus capped off an incredible year by performing on "Dick Clark's New Year's Rockin' Eve with Ryan Seacrest" in Times Square.

3 Chrissy Teigen with husband John Legend rang in the new year together at Legend's concert at the Aria Resort & Casino in Las Vegas.

celebrated at Combs' mansion in Miami.

7 A bronzed Mario Lopez and wife Courtney Mazza were the special guests at the MGM Grand Hotel/Casino in Las Vegas.

2 Bruno Mars christened the Cosmopolitan's new Chelsea Ballroom in Las Vegas.

4 Jill Scott performed at Radio City Music Hall in New York City.

5 David Cross, wife Amber Tamblyn, and Amy Poehler partied it up at the Sleep No More New Year's Eve 2014 Party in New York.

8 Billy Joel marked his return to touring in the U.S. with a performance at Brooklyn's Barclays Center. GETTY IMAGES

6 Robin Thicke, wife Paula Patton and Sean "Diddy" Combs



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Keanu Reeves and Hiroyuki Sanada seek vengeance in "47 Ronin." / FRANK CONNOR

46 Ronin plus one sad Keanu Reeves

Fantasy action. A Japanese classic gets a splashy redo that's still not insane enough.

None of the previous film adaptations — nor the real-life version, for that matter — of Japan's beloved story about 47 ronin have included shape-shifting henchwomen, giant horned rampaging beasts with eight eyes or sad Keanu.

That the new "47 Ronin" includes all these plus more is not in itself a bad thing. Tales are made to be pummeled into shapes that please and entertain each era. If anything, this American-shepherded but Japan-set

monstrosity ought to be more insane.

The basic story remains roughly the same. A feudal lord assaults another lord, Kira (Tadanobu Asano), and is forced to commit seppuku. Disgraced and leaderless, the lord's 47 ex-samurai — of whom we get to know about four — seek to clear their master's name and avenge his death. Added is a fantasy element: Kira isn't just evil but also has a vamping sorceress (Rinko Kikuchi) who turns into a preening fox, and later a dragon.

The most egregious addition, to some, is Keanu Reeves, as an English-Japanese "half-breed" who worms his way into the ronin's ranks (because he wants to die?) To his credit, Reeves and the Western filmmakers try their

best to assimilate into the brooding, ritualistic rites of the culture. It sticks closer to the tale — in particular its ending — than one would expect from Hollywood. But aside from a sneak attack leading up to a flaccid big battle, it's all for naught.

MATT PRIGGE
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Review

'47 Ronin'

Director: Carl Rinsch

Stars: Keanu Reeves, Hiroyuki Sanada

Rating: PG-13



Fogey comedy. Two legends duke it out in a movie that's just lazy.

"Versus" movies are the biggest cons in the business. There was never going to be a victor in "King Kong vs. Godzilla" or "Freddy vs. Jason" — just an anticlimactic draw that takes our money and doesn't deliver. Technically — technically! — "Grudge Match," which pits one boxing movie legend (Robert De Niro) against another (Sylvester Stallone), lets one triumph over the other. That doesn't mean it's not a cheat, or not incredibly lazy.

Review

'Grudge Match'

Director: Peter Segal

Stars: Sylvester Stallone, Robert De Niro

Rating: PG-13



The best thing — about the only good thing — about "Grudge Match" is the utter lack of lame old-

timer jokes and (especially) Viagra gags. The film could have been made 10, maybe even 20 years ago, with minimal changes to the script. It's still a waste of our time. "Grudge Match" is funny enough that it should be funnier. And while its leads actually do train their hearts out — in montages that, regrettably, weren't ghost-directed by Stallone, the reigning king of training montages — the screenplay gets lost in stock situations that do little but burn screentime.

MATT PRIGGE

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...But seriously, folks

Interview. What “The Secret Life of Walter Mitty” star always wanted to do was direct.

Ben Stiller followed in the footsteps of his performer parents, Anne Meara and Jerry Stiller, but he almost didn't. Over his career he's directed five movies, including “Reality Bites,” “The Cable Guy,” “Zoolander” and “Tropic Thunder.” His latest directorial piece, the long-in-the-works update of James Thurber's short story “The Secret Life of Walter Mitty,” stars him as a shy daydreamer.

What was your history with the Thurber story?

I knew the story from when I was in school, then I reread it when I got the script, just to reacquire myself with it. What struck me was the tone.



Ben Stiller directs and stars in the latest film of James Thurber's “The Secret Life of Walter Mitty.” / GETTY IMAGES

It's a very simple story and it doesn't really have a plot. But it's so well-written and he just hit on this iconic idea of a daydreamer, and that we all have a lot more inside of us than people can see.

Did you always want to be a director?

Yeah. I never wanted to be a comedian ever. [Laughs] It was never one of the things I thought about.

A piece of the old

For the love of paper

“Walter Mitty” also concerns the death of print media, a subject close to Stiller's heart. “I'm of a generation that lived both ends of it,” he says. “I'm not against [technology]. It's just sad to me that we're losing those tangible reminders of things that happened.

When we were researching, we went to Life magazine and started looking at old issues. When you look at an old Life magazine, you're looking at something from that year. You feel like you're actually holding a piece of history. Because it was actually there. The fact that that's not going to exist anymore is unfortunate.”

I always wanted to be a director since I was 8 or 9 years old.

The entire movie revolves around a piece of film. Was it shot on film?

Yes, I had to shoot on film. Karmically, for the movie, it felt right. I love film. I haven't directed in a few years [since 2008's “Tropic Thunder”], but I have never shot digitally as a director. It seems like every

time you sit down to shoot a movie digitally, it's like, “Well, how can we make it look like film?” Why don't you just shoot it on film? [Laughs] The film processing is becoming harder to find. But I love the history of the movies, and I love the quality and the texture of film.



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The Hookup

AMBER MADISON

AMBERMADISONONLINE.COM

Amber Madison is a relationship expert and practicing therapist who lives in Manhattan. She is also the author of "Are All Guys Assholes?" for which she interviewed over 1,000 guys and found the answer to this question is "no." Follow her on Twitter @ambermadi to get her latest advice.



Having a full life — complete with friends and new adventures — will strengthen your romantic relationships. / FUSE

LIVE LIFE SO YOU CAN SHARE IT

Someone asked me recently for my most important piece of relationship advice: If there was one rule that all couples should unequivocally follow, what would it be? My answer: Even when you're in a relationship, you must have your own life.

What I mean by this is that the most important thing you can do for your own happiness, your partner's happiness and the good of your relationship is to do your own thing every once in a while. The beauty of a relationship is that it exists between two people with different preferences, points of view and experiences. If two people lead such parallel lives that they're essentially one person, the tension that keeps a relationship interesting is lost.

For many of us, our inclination in a relationship can be to spend the majority of our time with our partner. And indeed, maintaining a life separate from your partner can be a tricky (and even scary) thing to do. We may experience some anxiety when we're away from them: "Is she having more fun without me?" "Is he meeting

someone else?" "Am I less important to her than she is to me?"

The best way to assure that your relationship stays strong and your partner remains interested isn't to cling with all your might; it's to continue following your own passions, hobbies and friendships.

As romantic as it may seem, you just can't rely on another person to be your everything. There are going to be some activities, interests and conversations that are just better suited for your friends. And in order to maintain strong friendships, you have to continue to put effort into them and make time for them. Not having close friends puts too much pressure on your relationship — it creates a dependence that makes it difficult for either one of you to truly thrive.

Of course, being in a relationship means shared activities, lots of time together and intense intimacy. But it doesn't have to mean you're completely enmeshed in each other's lives. So, my singular piece of advice: Your time apart is just as important as your time together. Use it wisely.

New Year's dating resolutions to keep

Fireworks. Make this year the one you find love (and keep it).

The beginning of a new year, with singletons ringing in 2014 with a smooch and maybe a new partner, brings a new opportunity to do things differently.

"It's time to change the game plan," says relationship expert Siggy Flicker. "People who are single need to make a few minor adjustments. We're in a technology-based society now; everything's about getting home and getting on your laptop instead of getting out there and going on dates." Flicker suggests you put down the computer and get out into the real world.

For her, that meant she had to work to actively date after getting divorced. "I had to go out there and put the effort in. I fell in love with a man who I never would have given a shot if I had seen him online. He owned a car dealership, he had no hair on his head, he was divorced; I thought, 'He's got baggage.'"

Well, eight years later, Flicker's life has changed: "I've never been so happy," she says.

Getting out there doesn't only mean meeting



Among all the resolutions you make for the new year, finding love could be the most fun. / CREATAS RF

new people — it means loving your life, hobbies and all, suggests Andrea Syrtash, relationship expert and co-author of "It's Okay to Sleep with Him on the First Date: And Every Other Rule of Dating, Debunked." "The best thing you can do for your love life is to love your life," she says.

For starters, she says, hobbies and activities you're passionate about will make your life "richer and more fulfilling." Plus, the chances are good that you'll meet like-minded people through these endeavors. "Increasing your social network is great for your single life. When you're connected to your passions, you'll be happier and more attractive."

Being happier stems from letting your hair down and being yourself. Flicker recommends you "stop being a phony" and get real, even if the outcome isn't great. (Hey, you win some, you lose some.) "Lead with your true self," she says. "If somebody's going to like you, they're going to like you for who you are. And if they're not, they're not going to; don't let the door hit their a— on their way out."

VICKI SALEMI
letters@metro.us

PLUS

New approach

Start with a bang!

1 Don't cling to singles, Flicker advises. Spend time with people who have the kind of relationships you want. "Go out with somebody who's going to help you in your journey — somebody in a healthy relationship."

2 Delete unrealistic expectations, she adds. "Guess what? We all want the guy who's like JFK Jr., who loved his mother, had a full head of hair and wants kids."

3 Go online already. Although Syrtash admits you'll go on some lame dates, online dating is a numbers game. "Even a bad date makes a good story! The reward is bigger than the risk."

Quoted

"The best thing you can do for your love life is to love your life."

Syrtash

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Horoscope

♑ Capricorn | Dec. 22-Jan. 20. Share your ideas with people who can help you succeed. Focus on making shrewd business decisions.

♒ Aquarius | Jan. 21-Feb. 18. Expect to give as much as you get. Solidify a partnership that will improve your future. Participating will lead to opportunity.

♓ Pisces | Feb. 19-March 20. You are likely to feel unfulfilled if you haven't been putting your needs first. Consider changes that you can make to improve your attitude. A trip will be informative.

♈ Aries | March 21-April 20. Don't be tempted to join exclusive clubs that will cost you top dollar. If you've been flaky, an argument is likely.

♉ Taurus | April 21-May 21. Remain impervious to irritations. There is no reason to argue. Stay positive and focus on productivity. You will receive as much as you contribute.

♊ Gemini | May 22-June 20. If you want a job done, do it yourself. Take initiative and work independently. A personal connection may turn out to be shallow.

♋ Cancer | June 21-July 22. Be honest and clear the air. You don't need to change your values to accommodate someone unworthy.

♌ Leo | July 23-Aug. 22. There is much to anticipate in the new year. You have great ideas that can become lucrative if you act now.

♍ Virgo | Aug. 23-Sept. 22. That little extra effort will make all the difference in terms of a hobby. Don't be pressured into spending more than you can afford. If you stick to a budget, you will benefit.

♎ Libra | Sept. 23-Oct. 22. Don't allow anyone to aggravate you today. Think carefully about what you really want. Stop waffling and make a decision so that you may move forward.

♏ Scorpio | Oct. 23-Nov. 21. No one else should be dictating what you should do. Be prepared to defend your point of view.

♐ Sagittarius | Nov. 22-Dec. 21. Take a careful and honest look at your finances. Don't bother gambling today.
BERNICE BEDE OSOL

Letters

Who needs enemies when you have the government?

Regarding the federal judge's insipid and cowardly decision that the NSA's superspying is legal, remember this ONE point: If ANY of our freedoms and liberties is taken away, then the terrorists have won, haven't they? It's not al Qaeda that is killing America. It's our own (very dishonest) government. And if "terrorists" are enemies of America, shouldn't we jail this judge and every government official who violated our Constitution?

After all, even they concede they want to

eliminate many of our freedoms, i.e. destroy what America stands for. I agree that's their goal.

JANICE AMATO, VIA EMAIL

Happy New Year, Metro

I am writing to wish you the very best that 2014 can bring to you and your staff. It was nice of you — very nice indeed — that you could accommodate both the smiles and the snarls of your readership this year. Keep up the good job.

JOHN DINGA, VIA EMAIL

letters@metro.us

Keep them as brief as possible, preferably under 100 words. Metro reserves the right to edit all letters. Please include your name and contact info.

Sudoku: Easy and hard

						2		1
3					9	6		
1	7	8	2		6			
	8	2				3		
		4	5		2	8		
		3				4	1	
			8		1	9	4	5
		1	3				6	
5		7						

2				9	7			5
	6		8					
			5			3	4	
			2	6		7	5	3
	3						9	
5	7	9		8	3			
	1	6			2			
				8		3		
3			1	7				4

How to play

Fill in the grid so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Crossword

Across

- 1 Mall attraction
- 5 Clay pot
- 9 Piquant
- 14 Word from the pews
- 15 Regretted deeply
- 16 Leading man
- 17 — — wine (festive treat)
- 19 Donahue et al.
- 20 Here, in Le Havre
- 21 Tail end
- 22 Mushroom-to-be
- 23 Elegant sweets
- 25 Sheriff Andy's son
- 26 Formic acid maker
- 27 Rumble
- 30 Mom's brother
- 33 Longbow's sound
- 34 Do yard work
- 36 Pete Seeger's music
- 37 A — of fate
- 38 Course of events
- 39 Biologist's eggs
- 40 Nanny
- 41 Broadcast
- 42 Primeval
- 44 Mao — -tung
- 45 Becomes mellow
- 46 Pouched critters
- 50 Jazz up
- 52 Pain in the neck
- 53 "Go team!"
- 54 Less polluted

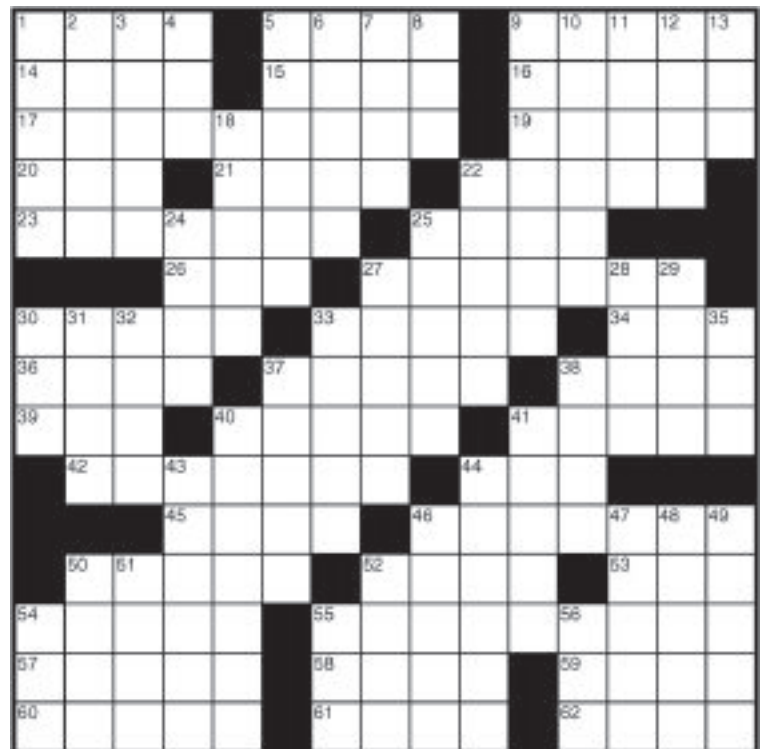
- 55 Dessert with citron
- 57 Video-game pioneer
- 58 Madison loc.
- 59 Toward shelter
- 60 Body art material
- 61 Poor grades
- 62 Exam for jrs.

Down

- 1 Bwana, in India
- 2 Bygone gas brand
- 3 Admit (2 wds.)
- 4 Naval off.
- 5 Use a compass
- 6 "Star Wars" creator
- 7 Wolfish look
- 8 Explain further
- 9 Shocking
- 10 Reverberated
- 11 "— it Up"
- 12 Decorated tinware
- 13 Cen. fractions
- 18 Opposite of supine
- 22 Grit
- 24 Stop short
- 25 Chicago's airport
- 27 Wrench
- 28 Sheik colleague
- 29 Hopped the train
- 30 Pilot's sighting
- 31 Exploding star
- 32 Large family

- 33 Chances to play
- 35 Led to the altar
- 37 Type of bee
- 38 Cravats
- 40 Where Lagos is
- 41 Money in the bank
- 43 Grotto
- 44 Snake-oil buys
- 46 Lull
- 47 Eurasian mountains
- 48 — — face (grimace)
- 49 Plywood unit
- 50 Mandolin kin
- 51 Baha'i origin
- 52 Party tray cheese
- 54 "Oom-Pah- —"
- 55 ATV feature
- 56 Salary limit

Dec. 27's answer



Online

You can use your smartphone to discover today's crossword answers — right now! Download and open the Blippar app on your smartphone and hold the screen over the puzzle — it's that easy!



Geno Smith looks forward to offseason with stability

NFL. With the rookie's first season in the books, he's looking forward to the offseason.

The Jets may have simplified the playbook for rookie quarterback Geno Smith in the past month, but the results have been more than encouraging during that stretch.

In the last four games, the Jets were 3-1 with a mostly error-free Smith under center. He completed 58 percent of passes and had four touchdowns with two interceptions in December. In the previous five games, Smith didn't have a touchdown and had eight interceptions.

"I have to work. Nothing I did this year is going to help me in terms of next year," Smith said. "It's all



It's likely Marty Mornhinweg will be back as Smith's offensive coordinator next season. / GETTY IMAGES

going to come down to the work I put in this offseason and how much I can get better from this season to the next. I'm not looking at it as what I did this year going into next year.

I have to put the work in this offseason. I have to prove myself every single day in practice in order to be the starter."

With perhaps a signing via free agency to the wide

In the Reeds

Despite a rocky start to his half a season with the Jets, safety Ed Reed would like to return next year to the team. And it appears as though there may be some mutual interest between the sides.

- "If that possibility is there, if the team will allow me and everything goes according to my heart," Reed said of a Jets return.

- A team source tells Metro the Jets would be open for Reed to come back "if the price was right." One main reason he would be brought back, the source said, is that he has "become invaluable in his mentoring of the young players, like Dee Milliner."

receivers, the cupboard certainly isn't bare for Smith, should he win the starting job next year.

There's also the added bonus of the return of head coach Rex Ryan, which likely means much of the coaching staff will return. This is an important piece of continuity for Smith, a surprising twist of stability for a franchise that had gone through three offensive coordinators in as many years.

"Yeah, it's very important to have the same system for a second year," Smith said. "To have an offseason in the system is extremely important and to have the same coaches and the guys that you're familiar with, that you've been with throughout a season, it pays dividends in the long run."

KRISTIAN DYER

sports@metro.us

3

SPORTS

Teddy touchdown

Cards QB heads to NFL Draft

The top quarterback in the upcoming NFL Draft may be all clear for entry. Louisville quarterback Teddy Bridgewater announced Wednesday he will leave school a year early to declare for the NFL Draft. Bridgewater threw for 31 touchdowns this season.



Watch online



Find video and recap of every Nets and Knicks game the following day at: Metro.us/sports.

FANTASY

ADAM LEVITAN, LIVING THE FANTASY

METRO'S FANTASY GURU BREAKS IT ALL DOWN.



NFL news

Mike Shanahan certainly has his warts as a coach, but in terms of getting production out of both the running game and his "X" wideout, few are better. His firing is bad news for the 2014 fantasy season.

IS THE RUNNING BACK ERA OF FANTASY OVER?

The fantasy world is ready to bail on the running backs.

As we look back on the 2013 season, people are standing on the rooftops shouting that the era of the running back is over. They're pointing to Peyton Manning's historic season, the faceplant of C.J. Spiller and the NFL's rules leading to ridiculous passing statistics.

There's only one problem with this argument. Passing has become so easy in the NFL that nearly everyone can do it. Out of fantasy's top 12 quarterbacks this season, a whopping seven were likely available in the seventh round or later of your draft (Andrew Luck, Andy Dalton, Philip Rivers, Russell Wilson, Tony Romo, Nick Foles and Ben Roethlisberger). Manning won owners a lot of leagues, but



Manning's record-setting season has people questioning tailback dominance. / GETTY IMAGES

2014 preview

Our first-look 2014 top 5:

- LeSean McCoy
- Jamaal Charles
- Adrian Peterson
- Matt Forte
- Calvin Johnson

those who loaded up early at the more scarce positions and then got one of these seven later brought home the trophy a lot as well. And next year, Manning won't be available in the third or fourth round — he'll likely be the No. 1 overall pick in a lot of

formats.

All this brings us back to running backs and the idea of relative value. Yes, it was an awful year for first-round running backs. Spiller, Arian Foster, Ray Rice, Doug Martin and Trent Richardson torpedoed seasons.

But there's just no replacing a guy like Jamaal Charles, LeSean McCoy, Matt Forte or Marshawn Lynch because the dropoff is so steep behind them. Out of fantasy's top 12 running backs, just three (Knowshon Moreno, Fred Jackson, Ryan Mathews) were likely available after the third round of your draft.

So even as the NFL landscape changes, the fantasy strategy is going to stay the same. We win with running back production/depth, and cherry-pick the quarterback spot.

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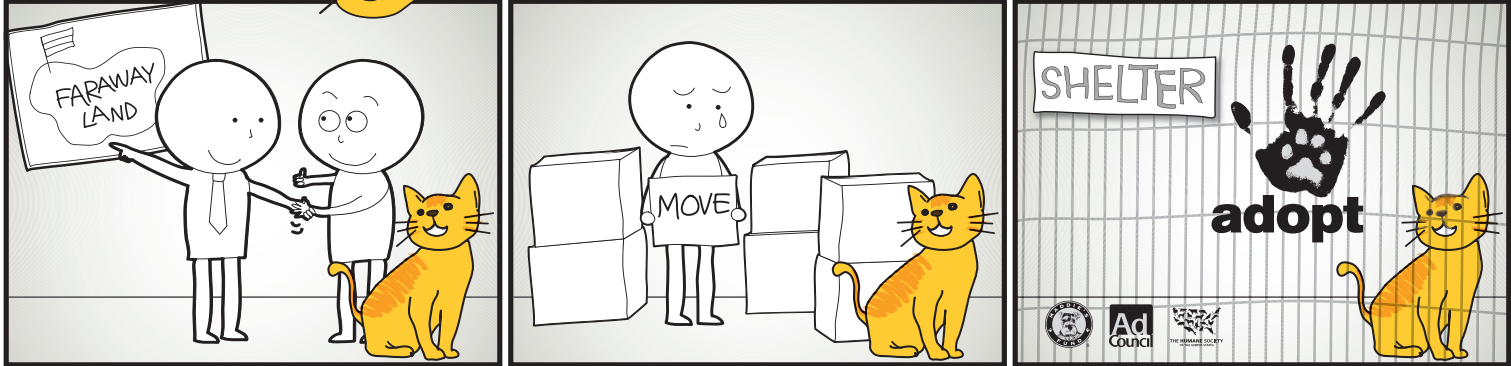
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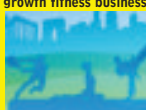
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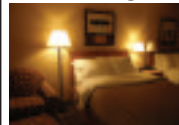
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KEY

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CONCESSION STANDS

SEATING

TICKETS

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Inflatables C60 Robalo C54	Bay Liner C67	MasterCraft D60 Regal D54	Monterey Boats E54		Bennington G60 Sabre G54	GMC H54 NY Canal H54	WATER J40 Sea Hunt C37 Chaparral C36	Cobalt D36	Key West E40 Jeanneau G47 Crownline E36	World Cat G48 Centurion G47 Malibu G36	H48 Everglades H36	J58 J44 J38 Seminars J36
Boston Whaler C18	Formula D18	Formula E18 Defiance G21 UCINA G17	Pursuit Boats G18	Regulator H18	J22 J18							
Sailfish D10 D2	Bryant D9 Scarab D1	Cruisers E2 Prestige E12	Four Winns G6 Sea Legs G2 Pro-Line H1	Sportsman H12 Food & Seating J2								



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An incredible line up of boating education and entertainment

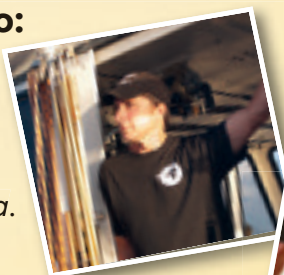
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